

# Working at NASA HQ: Opportunity and Challenge



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# Types of work at HQ

- Roadmapping of technology, science, exploration
- Creating processes to do business and procuring the IT systems to support those processes
- Developing top level requirements
- Writing/developing BAA's, NRA's
- Organizing & participating in focus groups, review panels, advisory committees, public workshops
- Determining metrics for program measurement
- Developing, reviewing and coordinating NASA-wide policy documents and standards
- Budget analysis, Program oversight
- Develop and facilitate Interagency partnerships

# Good things about working at HQ

- Chance to make a difference early in a program or on a big scale
- Chance to take on lots of responsibility (this depends on the length of your detail....for a 4 month effort, it might be less responsibility than say a 1 year effort)
- Chance to see things from a broad perspective
- Chance to work with dedicated individuals with a wide variety of backgrounds
- HQ is made up of many parts – chance to understand how they fit together
- Chance to understand the external factors that go into decision making at HQ (external committees, OMB, Congress, public)

# Good things about working at HQ (cont.)

- Improved awareness of budget cycles (3 concurrent)
- Improved awareness of where some of our fire drills come from!
- Similar concerns about NASA's future
- No hassles about Full Cost Accounting
- Centralized information systems
- Learn what they think of the 'other' centers
  - You can hear different sides of an issue, versus the GSFC side only
- The cafeteria is closer!

# Why working at HQ is different from working at Goddard

- Longer commutes!
- Even tighter deadlines
- Small organization culture and practices
- Generally older workforce
- Generally more political-driven agendas
- Different perceptions of the roles of “detailees”
- Very few “Hubble-huggers”
- Boring physical surroundings (community in a box)
- Smaller community: Often bump into AA’s, etc. in elevators/hallways
- Business attire - every day!